a user interface module including a first input selecting a categorical dimension for each of a first dimension and a second dimension of a multi-dimensional information terrain; a second input for selecting a numerical dimension of the information terrain; a third input for selecting a subset of the abstract information; and a fourth input for selecting a subset of the plurality of metaphoric objects for the information terrain; the user interface module selecting a portion of the abstract information as a function of the predetermined dimensions and metaphors; and

a virtual reality generator module coupled to the input module and the user interface module; the virtual reality generator module generating, continuously modifying and displaying on a display device a multi-dimensional information terrain that enables a user to simulate movement through and interact with the preprocessed abstract information; the information terrain representing selected portions of abstract information.

- 86. The decision support visualization system of claim 85, wherein the display device is a visual stereoscopic head-mounted display device.
- 87. The decision support visualization system of claim 85, wherein the information terrain is updated at least 30 times per second.
  - 88. The decision support visualization system of claim 85, wherein the virtual reality generator module includes means for generating and simultaneously displaying a plurality of information terrains.
  - 89. The decision support visualization system according to claim 85, wherein the input module receives preprocessed information from an online analytic processing source.
  - 90. The decision support visualization system according to claim 85, wherein the input module receives preprocessed information from an online transaction processing source.
  - 91. The decision support visualization system according to claim 85, wherein the input module

receives preprocessed information from a relational database source.

- 92. The decision support visualization system according to claim 85, wherein the input module receives preprocessed information from a spreadsheet source.
- 93. The decision support visualization system of claim 85, wherein the selected portion of abstract information is displayed as a plurality of metaphoric objects in the information terrain.
- 94. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors include geometric primitives.
- 95. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors include polygons.
- 96. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors rotate.
- 97. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors have variable luminance.
  - 98. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors have texture displays for each object in the information terrain.
  - 99. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein the plurality of metaphors have arrow vectors for each object in the information terrain.
  - 100. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, further comprising means for producing sounds relating to the selected one of the plurality of metaphors.
  - 101. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein a subset of the plurality of

metaphors is selected to flash by a predetermined one of the plurality of display, each metaphoric object in the subset generated by the virtual reality module such that it flashes.

- 102. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein a subset of the plurality of metaphors is selected to rotate by a predetermined one of the plurality of display, each metaphoric object in the subset generated by the virtual reality module such that it rotates.
- 103. The decision support visualization system of claim 93, wherein a subset of the plurality of metaphors is selected to illuminate by a predetermined one of the plurality of display, each metaphoric object in the subset generated by the virtual reality module such that it illuminates.
- 104. The decision support visualization system of claim 85, wherein the user interface module includes a first input selecting a categorical dimension for a first and a second dimension of the information terrain, a second input for selecting a numerical dimension; a third input for selecting a subset of the abstract information; and a fourth input for selecting a subset of the plurality of metaphoric object for the information terrain; and wherein the virtual reality generator module is operable to display at least a portion of the abstract information as a function of the selected dimensions and metaphors.
- 105. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the at least one categorical and numerical dimension displays the subset of the plurality of metaphors via one of a flashing, a spinning, a rotation, a shaping, a coloring an arrow vector and a texturing of the subset of the plurality of metaphors.
- 106. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected categorical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is geographic information.
- 107. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected categorical

dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is product information.

- 108. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected categorical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is operational information selected from the group consisting of profit and % profit.
- 109. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected categorical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is temporal information.
- 110. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected categorical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is financial information.
- 111. The decision support visualization system of claim 104, wherein the selected numerical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is aggregated information selected from the group consisting of sum, count, min, max, first, last, average and average over period sum/count numerics.
- 112. The decision support visualization system of claim 105, wherein the selected numerical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is comparative information selected from the group consisting of difference, ratio, percent, percent difference, share and correlation numerics.
- 113. The decision support visualization system of claim 106, wherein the selected numerical dimension displayed as a plurality of metaphors in the information terrain is sequential information selected from the group consisting of sort, cumulative sum, tertiles, quartiles, top/last n, top/last n%, classification and dual classification numerics.
- 114. The decision support visualization system of claim 1, wherein the online analytical